

**REMARKS**

Claims 12-22 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels the non-elected claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant also adds claim 23, which is clearly supported throughout the specification.

I. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner objected to the specification and claims 13-18 and 22 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for minor informalities. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection to the specification in view of the self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein.

III. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 13-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 60-18648 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter “Ikeda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,400,639 to Kobayashi et al. (hereinafter “Kobayashi”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Of these rejected claims, only claim 13 is independent. Independent claim 13 *inter alia* recites: “spraying a powder of an electrical insulation material on the slot peripheral wall of each slot to form an insulation coating.” The Examiner acknowledges that Ikeda does not disclose or suggest the unique features of claim 13 quoted above. The Examiner, however, alleges that Kobayashi cures the above-identified deficiencies of Ikeda (*see* page 4 of the Office Action).

Kobayashi discloses if necessary, insulation is provided between the rotor winding and rotor core, which may be called a slot cell insulation. This slot cell insulation may be an insulating sheet or a coating of insulating paint on the inner peripheral surface of the slots. In Kobayashi, if an insulating sheet is used for the slot cell insulation, the end of the insulating sheet is preferably placed into the notch, for this decreases the fear that the winding conductor touches the rotor core or the end of the spider end plate, which may ultimately result in a dielectric breakdown (col. 2, lines 28 to 38).

Kobayashi, however, explicitly discloses an insulation sheet bent approximately in U-shape used as the slot cell insulator 6, which is fitted into the slot 9 with the end 18 being placed into the notch 12 (Figs. 3-6; col. 3, lines 33 to 35 and line 47 to col. 4, line 4). In other words, just like in Ikeda, Kobayashi discloses inserting the insulator 6 into the slot 9, which means that the insulation layer is manufactured separately and inserted into the slot 9 instead of actually spraying a coating of insulation on the side walls of the slots. There is no disclosure in Kobayashi that the coating of insulating paint is sprayed as a powder on the walls. In short, Ikeda and Kobayashi clearly do not disclose or even remotely suggest spraying a powder of an electrical insulation material on a slot peripheral wall.

Furthermore, claim 13 recites: “cutting into the insulation coating on the pair of slot side walls at vicinity of the slot opening to form a pair of holding grooves opposing each other.” The Examiner contends that Ikeda discloses the above-quoted unique features of claim 13 in Fig. 8, element 12 (*see* page 4 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Fig. 8 of Ikeda does not show any cutting into the insulation coating on the pair of slot side walls. Ikeda only discloses that the insulating member 8 has a rugged groove 9 and it may have a projecting part 11 and a recessed part 12 (Figs. 6-9).

For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 13 is patentable over Ikeda in view of Kobayashi. Claims 14-18 and 22 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on claim 13.

IV. New Claims

In order to provide more varied protection, Applicant adds claim 23, which is patentable by virtue of its dependency and for additional features set forth therein.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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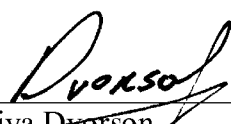
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